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**Guiana: British, Dutch, and French.** By James Rodway. 308 pp. Map, ills., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1912. 9 x 6.

This is one of the latest additions to the well-known *South American Series*. The story of Guiana, we are told "is one of colonization under very great difficulties, of trading ventures, failures through ignorance—and labor experiments." This statement suggests the main themes of the book, for nearly half the text is historical, dealing mainly with English activities, and British Guiana, but discussing Dutch and French activities in their respective sections of the country. Chapters are also given to: villages and river people in British Guiana, the people and immigration, native Indians, census and mortality of different races, fauna and flora, agricultural and natural products, travel notes, and trade. There is also a bibliography and a map.

Two things stand out sharply: (1) The arraignment of the French policy in Cayenne; and, (2) the discussion of labor problems, which comes to the front at almost every turn.

Cayenne is called a "blot on Guiana" and "deserves everything that has been said against it." Cayenne and alcoholism—"for no doubt stimulants have killed more white men than the climate"—are held responsible for the bad name of Guiana. This evil reputation is "no longer deserved." Even Cayenne is "no more unhealthful than other tropical colonies," but suffers from the evil effects of the convict system which "stands in the way of progress." French Guiana will not attract settlers, capital, or become a valuable colony until this system is changed.

The labor problem is the most interesting topic in the book. We are told: "The white man cannot labor in the field—he can only direct and control." "If there is a dense native population something may be done." "Tropical countries can only be developed by tropical races." "On the amount of imported labor has always depended the prosperity of Guiana." Thus, British Guiana has been most important because it has the largest labor supply of the three Guianas. Following 1796, increased slave trade caused increased exports, while abolition of the slave trade in 1807 seriously checked development, and the abolition of slavery in 1834 nearly ruined the colony. In the year of abolition, exports were: sugar, 45,000 tons; cotton, 5,319 bales; coffee, 1,640 tons. Eleven years later, exports were: sugar, 19,000 tons; cotton, none; coffee, 51 tons. Later coffee also dropped from the list, and has only recently reappeared.

The importation of Indian coolies has saved the day, and given the best labor yet found. The Indian coolie is "fast becoming the backbone of British Guiana" and "certainly will be the man of the future" if the immigration system is continued. He is "more reliable than the negro," can be depended on for five days work per week and enjoys better health than "the other races," probably because he is "the only real tropical man who dresses to suit the climate."

These items suggest the general tone of the book, which is decidedly interesting in every way. The only serious criticism which may be ventured is that the author says too little about Dutch and French Guiana, with which he is personally better acquainted than this book shows. WALTER S. TOWER.

## AFRICA

**L'Afrique Occidentale Française.** Par Louis Sonolet. 2ème édition. 246 pp. Map, ills. Hachette et Cie., Paris, 1912. 7½ x 5.

A French view of territorial and colonial expansion generally emphasizes the fact that her territorial ambitions have not been blazoned by many wars but that her policy is one of pacific penetration. This account of French West Africa is valuable then as an amplification of the French idea of colonization, and at the same time there can be gained from it a good conception of the present stage of the country. The tools of her labor are the natives; and the